



CITY OF ROCKY MOUNT FACTSHEET

STORMWATER AT A GLANCE

Why should stormwater be important to me?

You may not realize it, but you are affected by stormwater. Residents, businesses, tourists, and industry all benefit from clean water and well-maintained drainage systems.

Stormwater is the portion of rainfall that runs off your property and does not soak into the ground. In urban areas, such as Rocky Mount, rain that falls on the roof of your house or collects on paved areas, such as driveways, roads, and footpaths, is carried away through a series of underground pipes and storm drains, that are separate from the sanitary sewer system.

Unlike sewage, stormwater is not treated. As stormwater flows through the drainage system, it collects pollutants, and eventually flows directly into the Tar River and area creeks. These are the same rivers and creeks we use for swimming, fishing, and recreational activities.

As the city grows, the investment in the stormwater management program must grow with it. Allocating the proper resources to upgrading and maintaining the system will help control street and backyard flooding and will help protect local water quality.



Why does the City of Rocky Mount care about stormwater?

As the Rocky Mount area has grown and become increasingly urban, the City has had to adapt and manage the impacts of this growth. Stormwater – whether affected by possible flooding, water pollution, or an aging infrastructure – is one of the issues that needs this kind of management.

To add to the already apparent need to upgrade the City stormwater program, both the federal and state government are expanding their regulatory requirements on water quality and are now requiring communities, like Rocky Mount, to clean up their stormwater and to create a comprehensive, coordinated stormwater management program that will address the city's stormwater quality and drainage needs.

Questions: Visit the city website at www.ci.rocky-mount.nc.us

How will the City pay for the stormwater management program?

A 17-member local Stormwater Advisory Committee evaluated a variety of options for paying for the program. They looked at other communities in North Carolina and across the U.S. and how they have addressed the issue. The committee recommended that the City Council develop a City Stormwater Utility.



What is a stormwater utility?

A Stormwater Utility is a funding mechanism to pay for the costs of providing stormwater management services. The City of Rocky Mount already has a utility to fund water, sewer, electricity, and gas.

For billing purposes, the stormwater program will use the same staff resources and billing systems to charge developed property within the city, based on the impact of their property on the stormwater system.

Impervious surfaces on your property, such as parking lots, buildings, driveways, sidewalks, etc., keep the stormwater from soaking into the ground and create excess stormwater runoff.

Under the new stormwater utility, the greater the impervious surface area on your property, the more a property will be charged for stormwater management services. This creates a fair system where all city residents bear the stormwater management costs based on the demand placed on the system.

How is my fee calculated?

Single-family structures will be charged a flat fee of \$3.25.

Other developed property owners, such as businesses, industry, multi-family, and tax-exempt properties, will pay \$3.25 per month for every 2,519 square feet of impervious surface on their property.

Questions: Call the City's Stormwater Hotline at 972-1500